

New paper starts up in Belleville

Investors in both parties underwrite 'Independent'

By MARJORIE KAUTH-KARJALA

NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

1-13-1995

BELLEVILLE — The front row is a crowded place at public meetings in the Belleville area.

That row is usually occupied by reporters who cover the Belleville area for five newspapers.

The latest addition to the media market in Belleville is the Belleville Area Independent, which distributed its second edition to local restaurants and businesses Thursday.

The other newspapers covering Belleville are the Belleville Enterprise, The View, the Ypsilanti Courier and the Ypsilanti Press edition of The Ann Arbor News. All the papers are weekly, with the exception of the daily Ypsilanti Press edition.

The Independent, a 12-page tabloid, is the work of Rosemary Otzman. She is familiar to local readers as a former writer for The View.

Otzman said the response to the new newspaper has been "wonderful," and she believes the paper will succeed.

"It's going to be a money-making venture" for the 13 investors who are supporting the newspaper, Otzman said.

The investors include Democrats, Republicans and independents, and they have no editorial control, Otzman said.

Local attorney Barbara Rogalle Miller is an investor and an active Democrat. "I'm known to be a Democrat in the community. I'm very comfortable with everybody else who's invested," Miller said.

Other investors include Maxine and George Heifner, who are members of the Belleville Area Republican Club.

The diversity of investors is important

See BELLEVILLE, C4

TODAY IN HISTORY

Ten years ago: In a rare interview, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko said that superpower arms talks would be held only if the United States violated a commitment to ban nuclear space weapons.

Five years ago: L. Douglas Wilkins was sworn in as the nation's first elected black mayor, taking the oath of office in Richmond.

T-SHIRT

"Everyday is an opportunity to make a difference for others with your actions."

— Dr. Wallace

We
strongly
encourage
our readers to
RECYCLE your **A**
News, also your glass
containers, tin and aluminum
cans and plastics.

Continued from C1

BELLEVILLE: Paper begins publication

because it counters the suspicion by some that the newspaper will be slanted against the Van Buren Township administration, Otzman said.

There has been friction between the Democratic administration and the Belleville Republican organization, with Van Buren Township Supervisor David Jakes being a frequent target in the organization's newsletter.

"I'm not after Dave," Otzman said. "I would like Dave to be a little more forthcoming with information. I voted for him in the last township election. . . . I've seen him do wonderful things.

"For anybody who thinks it's a BARC thing, I invite them to watch and judge for themselves," Otzman said.

The newest addition to news coverage in the area comes after a tumultuous year in local newspapers. In June, the former Ypsilanti Press closed suddenly, and The Ann Arbor News began publishing its Ypsilanti Press edition. In August, The View publication, which had been a biweekly, began publishing every Friday. In early fall, the Ypsilanti Courier, formed by some staff members of the old Ypsilanti Press, began publication.

The Courier initially was dedicated to covering the Ypsilanti area only, but recently started covering Van Buren Public Schools.

The first call came in at 5 a.m. on stor ablaze in two separate apartment buildings at West Stac vard and Pauline Boulevard. Residents in both buildings uated. Then a parked truck was on fire on Alhambra Dr blocks away. The truck was partially damaged. Shortly b a.m., a chair in the hallway of a building at Walden Con 2114 Pauline Boulevard, was set on fire, damaging the h Residents were kept out until smoke cleared. No injurie ported in any of the fires, according to Lt. Thomas Schn Ann Arbor Fire Department. All four fires are still unde tion, he said.

Shots fired, gang markings found

Ann Arbor police are investigating multiple gunshots day night on the city's southwest side. Officers responde Maple Road around 9:10 p.m. and recovered numerous shotgun shells. There were gang markings on each round covered was a shotgun. No one was reported injured in dent, and police have no suspects in custody.

BREAK-INS

YORK TOWNSHIP

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YPSILANTI TOWN

900 block of Davis
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News staff reporters Chong Pyen and Stephen Cain com
report.

New bridge gets some character through decorative touches

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a By MARJORIE KAUTH-KARJALA
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER 5-13-1995

BELLEVILLE — Work is progressing on the new Belleville Road bridge, and Belleville area residents are getting ready to say goodbye to the blue steel bridge that has been a Belleville landmark for years.

The new bridge won't carry the same memories as the old one, but it will have a character of its own.

The bridge will have a wrought iron railing on each side — of a blue-green color called "night tide." It also will have brick bollards, or columns. Some of the columns

will have a large concrete ball on top. The lighting on the bridge will match the old-fashioned light poles used along Main Street.

The decorative touches came about through the efforts of city officials, residents and local designer Chesley Odom.

Odom said that at first, Wayne County was going to install a standard expressway bridge, similar to Rawsonville Road. But Odom and others thought that would be "terrible."

"We loved our old bridge so much and didn't really want a new bridge. But we didn't have a choice," Odom said. So the

best thing to do was to design decorative features to give the bridge some character, Odom said.

Odom drafted some decorative designs in different price ranges, and the city picked what it could afford, Odom said. Although the bridge structure is being paid out of federal funds, the decorative features will come out of Belleville coffers.

Odom owns Chesley Odom Design Associates on Main Street in Belleville. Odom moved his business from Dearborn to Belleville in 1989 so his work would be closer to his home on Belleville Lake.

Odom studied at the Center for Creative

Studies and started his company in 1972. He has a wide variety of business and residential customers throughout the Detroit metropolitan area, Odom said.

Odom's services include interior design for businesses, such as designing restaurants or office space. Odom also contributes to the total design of buildings, although he is not an architect.

He also creates graphics and logos that help establish identities for corporations.

For homeowners, the work can include redecorating an entire home. One time, he designed a \$50,000 bathroom for a Grosse Pointe customer, he said.

opportunities in the Washtenaw County area. □

Huron River Day — The Ann Arbor Department of Parks and Recreation will hold the annual Huron River Day July 9. Volunteers are needed from 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Volunteers work two-hour shifts. The opportunities are: setup, event registration, canoe pickup, secondary setup, take down registration, canoe handout, fruit-pop handout and boat dock workers. Volunteers receive a free T-shirt, beverages and a concession ticket for food items. Information: Melissa Frash, 994-2780.

Hospital services — Areas at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital with a special need for volunteers are flower delivery, outpatient oncology, the



VOLUNTEERS

surgical lounge, volunteers to work with children from chemically dependent homes, MOC lobby attendant, nursing units and patient relations. Information, Volunteer Services: 712-4159.

Great Lakes Triathlon — Volunteer your time on behalf of Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Washtenaw County at the Great Lakes Triathlon Championships July 9 at the Pinckney Recreation Area from 5:15 a.m.-11 a.m. Jobs include set-up, registration, race course assistance, and water stations. All volun-

tion. Mark Bangera, Services for Youth, 994-4224.

Science Center — Leslie Science Center is in need of volunteer help with animal care, general cleaning, maintenance and program assistance. Information: Pam Bailey, 662-7802.

Stenographer — The Lamaze Childbirth Preparation Association of Ann Arbor needs a stenographer for two, 1½-hour focus groups for minutes and transcription. Information: 973-1014.

Special projects — Volunteer Services, Department of Social Services, has opportunities for volunteers interested in "special projects" such as putting together photo albums or creating a birthday file. Information: 481-8398.

Recreational activities assistance — The Free Spirit Daycare

supervise a small group of children and adolescents with their visits to the Ann Arbor YMCA recreational facility. Volunteers will help with the usage of recreational equipment, social skill building, and planning and organizing of the recreational activities. Information: 697-1463.

Annual mailing — The Corner Health Center needs volunteers to help fold and stuff the annual letter on the following dates: June 13, 1-5 p.m.; June 14, 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m.; June 15, 9 a.m.-noon. Call Rose or Lisa, 484-3700.

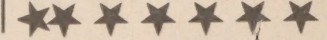
For information on these and other volunteer opportunities, or if your non-profit organization needs volunteers, contact Washtenaw United Way's Volunteer Action Center at 971-5852.

Buren Public Schools will begin new life with the purchase of \$117,000 in new instruments the next two years.

The majority of the instruments will be bought next



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CHAPEL'S CHANGES

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By MARJORIE KAUTH-KARJALA
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BELLEVILLE — A simple yet beautiful piece of Ypsilanti history can be found not in Ypsilanti, but in Belleville.

The Belleville Presbyterian Church, at 11900 Belleville Road, was originally located northwest of what is now the General Motors Powertrain plant in Ypsilanti Township.

The white clapboard church, built in 1939, was the chapel for Camp Legion, a camp for the sons of World War I veterans. The camp, which taught farming skills, was started by Henry Ford, says Georgina Fries, church member and expert on the history of the chapel.

The chapel is one of seven chapels of the same Colonial Revival design built by Ford. The chapels are called Mary-Martha chapels after Ford's mother and mother-in-law.

"He built the Ford cars for the common man. They were very utilitarian. And that's what his churches are, too," Fries says.

There are no stained glass, no golden walls and no statues in the chapel. The church is narrow, with two columns of pews. The win-

dows on either side are Palladian style, with a rounded arch.

Without the stained glass, the windows let in an abundance of soft, natural light. On cloudy days or at night, recessed electrical light fixtures unobtrusively provide light.

Sconces, with real candles, line the walls and are used for candlelight ceremonies.

The original entrance to the church faces Belleville Road, with a Greek Revival steeple.

The entrance is closed now. Worshipers now enter the church from the back through an addition called a narthex.

The area that used to be the entrance is now the altar of the church.

The bell in the steeple now works, after Fries' husband climbed up into the steeple and took it to be repaired, Fries says.

Belleville was not the first stop the church made after leaving the Willow

Run area. In 1954, the church was moved to Dearborn, where it housed the Cherry Hill Baptist Church at Cherry Hill and Gully roads.

When the Baptist congregation got too large for the small church, the Belleville Pres-



NEWS PHOTO • LON HORWEDEL

Belleville Presbyterian Church, Ford Chapel.

byterians bought the church for \$1 in 1978.

"We took it for a dollar and spent a mint (to move it)," says Joe Kehborn, an usher and longtime member of the church.

The church came on a huge trailer, Kehborn says. "Detroit Edison went before (the truck) and lifted all the lines," Fries says.

The Belleville Presbyterian Church was first established in 1959 and had services in Van Buren Township's Old Township Hall on Main Street in Belleville. The congregation moved to Belleville Road in 1964 and built a church, which is now used as an education building.

The church is one of only two of the Martha-Mary chapels that are used by active congregations. The others are used as wedding chapels or have been destroyed. The other chapel in use by a congregation is in Trenton, used by St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

EFING

ps to 385

recently offered its Recognition of graduating high school seniors. Scholarships, valued at \$3,000 each, are offered to students who are academically talented high school seniors. They are offered to students who have earned a minimum cumulative annual \$2.8 million Presidential Academic Award for high school seniors. College Test and Scholastic Achievement Test scores must be at least a 3.3 grade point average. Students must complete 12 credit hours during their first two years to receive the award in their junior

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presented representatives of the foundation with a check for \$25,000. A check was presented next spring. Ford's local Community Relations representatives from the Ypsilanti Community Relations, employee relations, Fuel Handling Division, presented a check with the check during a luncheon at Haab's Restaurant. The foundation trains school children in programming that prepares children for membership of society.

Schools eliminate truancy

■ The cost for missing class will be in not being able to keep up with coursework and pass tests.

By MARJORIE KAUTH-KARJALA
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For some students, the new attendance policy at Belleville High School might seem to be a tick-off to miss as many days of school as they want.

The policy, which was adopted by the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education on Monday, eliminates any set penalty for missing an excessive amount of school with excused absences.

Instead, the penalty for missing class will be in

VAN BUREN SCHOOLS

not being able to keep up with the coursework and pass the tests.

The policy is "more like real life ... with a more natural system of consequences," said Trustee Martha Toth.

The new policy replaces a pilot policy, which had mandated that teachers include attendance as part of the grading system. The pilot policy replaced a long-standing policy under which any student who missed 15 days of a class would automatically fail.

The new policy is called SAIL, which stands for Student Attendance Improves Learning. The written policy emphasizes the importance of class attendance and says all students are ex-

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BOARD: Contracts renewed

receive a mileage allowance of \$350 a month.

"As much time as we spend on contracts, I think we'd be negligent not to review this (contract), or review it annually," said Kerr. "We're not always going to have the opportunity to do this."

"This is an automatic rubber stamp," added Brumfield.

Administrators such as Fulton, Dowdy and Mull, who were present at the meeting, argued that the mileage stipend was the only thing that elevated executive administrative salaries above other district staff. Without it, Fulton said he would make less than staff members who do not serve in an execu-

tive capacity.

Fulton told board members he lost \$2,000 per year in salary when he agreed to leave his post as building principal at the high school and replace retiring Duke Williams as the personnel director.

"If you attempt to take the mileage away, in a position that I presume has more responsibilities, I would be taking a \$7,000 cut," said Fulton. "The \$350 stipend was given to make these salaries higher. Although it has been called mileage, it is part of the salary."

The resolution set the salaries at \$77,250 for Dowdy, Fulton and Kacanek, and at \$40,170 for Mull and Rinaldi.

Continued from C1

B-24: Problem

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"The problem (with the B-24) is the cylinder, or jug," said Bob Collins of the non-profit Collings Educational Foundation in Stow, Mass. "It has a slight crack in it and was blown out exhaust and oil. It's a fairly fine thing on an old-fashioned round piston engine — not a big thing, but something you can't get right away."

The B-17 is undergoing an engine change, and it's not clear when it will be able to fly again. The plane is expected to arrive today at the Ann Arbor Airport, as long as this morning's test flight turns up no

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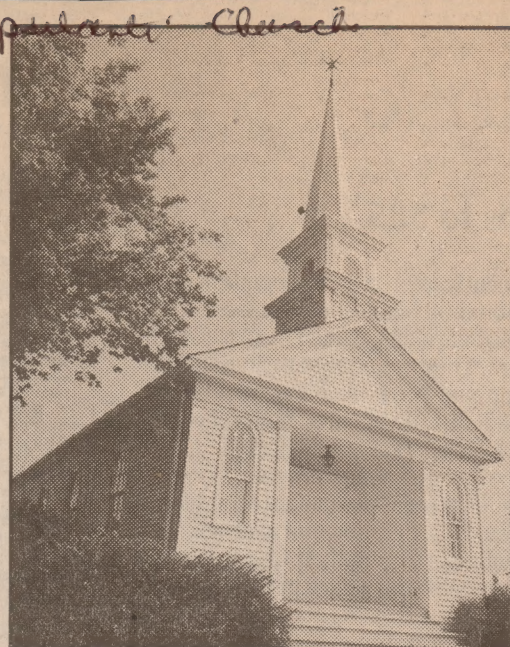
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